

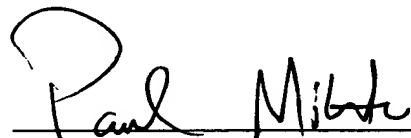
REMARKS

The present application was filed April 4, 2001 and has yet to be examined. In response to a status inquiry, an Office Communication was issued August 5, 2002 indicating that the Application would be Examined in November, 2003, at the earliest. Applicant thus submits these papers in connection with a Petition to Make Special pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.102(d).

Applicants have requested that claims 37-38 and 42-43 be cancelled and that claims 1 and 15 be amended as described above to more clearly claim the applicants' invention.

In light of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-36 and 39-40 as amended are in condition for allowance. Grant of the attached Petition to Make Special and Prompt consideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In The Claims**

Please cancel claims 37-38 and 42-43. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for facilitating a chat service from a web site, the web site consisting of web pages and executable program routines stored on an http server, the http server coupled via a computer network to a plurality of subscriber computers each operated by at least one of the subscribers, the method comprising:

a. transmitting a web page to one of the subscriber computers, the web page including a hypertext link corresponding to a chat environment facilitating communication among chat participants, the web page also including an indication of the extent to the which the chat participants using the chat environment are compatible with a user of the one of the subscriber computers;

b. receiving a request for the chat environment from the one of the subscriber computers;

c. causing the chat environment to be generated on the one of the subscriber computers, the chat environment depicted as a chat environment on a display device associated with the one of the subscriber computers when processed by an application program operating on the one of the subscriber computers, the depicted chat environment including an area for chat messages, a plurality of screen images, each one of the plurality of screen images associated with a corresponding one of the chat participants, and a plurality of compatibility indicator sets, each one of the indicator sets associated with a corresponding one of the chat participants; and

d. facilitating the establishment of a connection between the one of the subscriber computers and a chat server such that the one of the subscriber computers is logged onto a chat channel corresponding to the generated chat environment.

15. (Amended) A method for facilitating a chat service from a web site, the web site consisting of web pages and executable program routines stored on a server, consisting of web pages and executable program routines stored on a server, the server coupled via a computer network to a plurality of subscriber computers each operated by at least one of the subscribers, the method comprising:

a. transmitting a web page to one of the subscriber computers, the web page including a hypertext link corresponding to a chat environment facilitating communication among chat participants, the web page also including an indication of the extent to the which the chat participants using the chat environment are compatible with a user of the one of the subscriber computers;

b. receiving a request for the chat environment from the one of the subscriber computers;

c. causing the chat environment to be generated on the one of the subscriber computers, the chat environment depicted as a chat environment on a display device associated with the one of the subscriber computers when processed by an application program operating on the one of the subscriber computers, the depicted chat environment including an area for chat messages, a plurality of screen images, each one of the plurality of screen images associated with a corresponding one of the chat participants, and a plurality of compatibility indicator sets, each one of the indicator sets associated with a corresponding one of the chat participants; and

d. facilitating the establishment of a connection between the one of the subscriber computers and a chat server such that the one of the subscriber computers is logged onto a chat channel corresponding to the generated chat environment.